

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03149 012249Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W
-----031740 012251Z /65

PR 012225Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3676
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 1543

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 3149

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, NU
SUBJECT: EMB PRESS RELEASE ISSUE COOLS DOWN

REF: STATE 151637

SUMMARY: DESPITE CENSORSHIP, EMB PRESS RELEASE RE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE IS GETTING WIDE DISTRIBUTION. OPPOSITIONISTS ARE DELIGHTED. GON IS PROBABLY STILL UNHAPPY BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE RELEASE WAS DEBATED IN NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND LOWER CHAMBER PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK BECAME SO VITRIOLIC, GON DECIDED TO CENSOR HIM TOO. END SUMMARY

1. EMB HAS RECEIVED COPY OF FRONT PAGE MARKUP OF OPPOSITION DAILY LA PRENSA OF JUNE 27 IN WHICH EMB PRESS RELEASE WAS CENSORED BY GON. ONLY NEWS COVERAGE WHICH SLIPPED CENSORS WAS INDIRECT REFERENCE ON RADIO AND DAILY NEWSLETTER "BOLSA DE NOTICIAS" WHICH PHOTOCOPIED NEWS RELEASE. NEVERTHELESS, COPIES OF NEWS RELEASE HAVE FALLEN INTO HANDS OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS WHO HAVE MASS REPRODUCED COPIES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC.

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2. EMBOFFS HAVE RECEIVED CONGRATULATIONS FROM OPPOSITIONISTS FOR CALLING UP SHORT GON ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE AS SOMOZA VICTORY AND DEFEAT FOR NICARAGUA'S ENEMIES. STUDENT GROUPS WHO WERE INITIALLY MOTIVATED TO PROTEST US GRANTING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA, REPORTEDLY CALMED DOWN WHEN THEY LEARNED OF EMB PRESS RELEASE.

3. CHARGE HAS HAD CEREMONIAL AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH GON OFFICIALS IN WHICH SUBJECT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN RAISED. THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL FEEDBACK AS RESULT OF DEPT'S SOLID REJECTION OF AMB. SEVILLA'S DEMARCHE (REFTEL-NOTAL). OTHER EMBOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED PRESS RELEASE WITH NATCNAL GUARD AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH OUR POSITION, WE MAY BE ACHIEVING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF IT. LOCAL RUMOR MILLS PERCEIVE ISSUANCE OF EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE AS INDICATION OF FURTHER DISTANCING OF USG FROM SOMOZA REGIME.

4. THE ONE FURTHER STRIDENT REACTION CAME PREDICTABLY FROM LOWER CHAMBER PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK WHO REACTED VITRIOLICLY IN CONGRESSIONAL SESSION OF JUNE 29. IN THIS SESSSION CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLITICAL SECRETARY, EDUARDO CHAMORRO, READ THE EMB PRESS RELEASE (OR EXCERPTS). HUECK, GESTICULATING AND POUNDING HIS DESK, STATED EMB'S PRESS RELEASE WAS AN INSULT (IRRESPETO) TO THE CONGRESS OF THE US. HIS ARGUMENT WAS THAT EMB WAS MISREPRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL VOTE WHICH HAD RECOGNIZED THAT NICARAGUA SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON LIST OF COUNTRIES DEPRIVED OF AID. HUECK SAID THIS DID NOT BOTHER HIM AS NICARAGUAN BUT WHAT DID CONCERN HIM WAS IN PRIOR VOTES NICARAGUA, ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, HAD BEEN QUOTE CONDEMNED WITHOUT BEING HEARD UNQUOTE. ANOTHER LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY, ZURITA, SUPPORTED HUECK'S INTERPRETATION BUT POINTED OUT MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CORRESPONDS TO EXECUTIVE POWER QUOTE NOT TO THIS CHAMBER UNQUOTE.

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5. THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE WAS RECORDED BY TELEVISION. WHEN TV STATION SOUGHT CLEARANCE FROM CENSOR FOR BROADCAST ON 10:00 P.. NEWS, SERIES OF HURRIED CONSULTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITHIN GN LEADERSHIP AND LEAD TO REFERRAL TO OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. RESULT WAS THAT HUECK'S DIATRIBE WAS CENSORED.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE STATUS QUO, EMB PRESS RELEASE WILL PROBABLY HAVE AS WIDE CIRCULATION AMONG POLITICALLY ACTIVE SECTORS AS IF IT HAD BEEN AIRED IN LOCAL MEDIA. FURTHER, THE FACT RELEASE WAS CENSORED BY GON GIVES IT ADDED AURA OF SIGNIFICANCE AMONG OPPOSITIONISTS. AT THE SAME TIME, WITH NO APPROACH HAVING BEEN MADE BY GON TO DISCUSS OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND HOW IMPASSE MIGHT BE RESOLVED, EMB ATTEMPT TO CORRECT MISIMPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL VOTE FOSTERED BY GON REMAINS FRUSTRATED BY CENSORSHIP.

RUBENSTEIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS RELEASES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1985597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMB PRESS RELEASE ISSUE COOLS DOWN
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, NU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18e57f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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